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THE CHILD'S HOROSCOPE.

First Edition—3,000 Copies.

MADRAS:

M. R. T. & B. SOCIETY.

1874.

No. 13. One Pie.

A CHILD'S HOROSCOPE.

Many people in this country, when a child is born, get its horoscope written. The astrologer pretends to be able to find out from the stars what will be the child's future lot. The horoscope, being considered a sure guide, is consulted on marriages and other important occasions.

Some things written in horoscopes come to pass. Suppose that an astrologer foretold that to-morrow morning you would eat your breakfast; that in the evening you would take your supper, and afterwards go to bed; you would at once say, "Oh! I know

all that myself, without consulting the stars." Many of the predictions in horoscopes are much of the same kind. It may be said of every one born in the world, that if he live he will have sickness at certain times, and that if he recover he will not then die; that he will have seasons of prosperity and adversity; that he will have friends and enemies. These things may be safely written in every horoscope.

But horoscopes contain other things which frequently do not come to pass. When a horoscope pretends to tell how long a person will live, in nearly every case it is false. The astrologer does not know this; it is hidden from the wisest man on earth. Occasionally, by chance, the horoscope may be

right, . but nearly always it is wrong. To deceive foolish people, the astrologer has some excuse,—he made a slight error in the calculation, &c.

Formerly, most nations believed in astrology; but wise men, comparing horoscopes written by the best astrologers and finding them incorrect, ceased to have faith in them.

It is easy to show that horoscopes, in many cases, must be wrong. Suppose that a queen and the wife of one of her horsekeepers gave birth to a child at the same moment, the position of the planets would be the same for each, yet how different would be their future lives! If the plaintiff and defendant in a suit each consult an astrologer about a

lucky day to institute it, the same time would be named for both, though one would gain and the other lose.

Another reason why enlightened nations have given up astrology is, that they are now better acquainted with the heavenly bodies. Formerly they considered Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Venus, &c. to be powerful deities. By means of glasses which enable distant objects to be seen, learned men now know that the planets are composed of earth and stones, somewhat like the world, the planet on which we live. The planets no more influence this world than a large stone near a village regulates its affairs. The wisest, richest, and most powerful nations do not now get horo-

scopes. written out. Instead of being guided by ignorant astrologers, they use the reason which God has given them to conduct business.

Pretending to foretell events by lizards and omens, is equally foolish. There is a proverb, "It is said that the lizard that is the oracle of the whole village has fallen into the pot."

Though we cannot ascertain from horoscopes what will happen, there are sayings of a king, renowned for his wisdom, contained in an ancient book, which enable us to predict far better than any astrologer the future fortune of a child. Some of them will be mentioned.

1. "A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

If a man does not cultivate his field, he can expect only a crop of weeds. Sin springs up far more readily in our wicked hearts than weeds in a neglected field. If a boy is allowed to do just as he likes, he is certain to acquire bad habits which will be his ruin.

2. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." The first saying shows the mischief that follows from neglecting a child; the second points out the happy consequences of training him aright. When it is wished to make a tree grow in any direction, the way is, to bend it when young. It then takes the sought-for course, and every year it becomes stronger and stronger, until at last it cannot be altered.

Somewhat in like manner, if children, when young, are trained to do what is right, they will continue to do so, when they are old.

3. " He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Can one touch pitch without being defiled? If we go among persons having small-pox, is it surprising if we take the disease? So, if a child join with bad companions, he is likely to follow their example. On the other hand, if the wise are his chosen friends, they will help to lead him in the right way.

4. "The hand of the diligent maketh rich." Success in undertakings does not depend upon the influence of the planets. It will

generally be found that men who prosper in life are those who attend carefully to their business.

5. "Drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." The foregoing proverb tells how people become rich. This mentions one of the causes of poverty. The sluggard, instead of rising up early, cries, "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep." If he is a farmer, weeds spring up in his fields; they are not properly supplied with water; animals break through his bad fences, and eat up part of the scanty crop. He has no money to buy clothing, and is obliged to wear rags.

6. "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man." There are

several causes which make people poor besides laziness. Drunkenness, gluttony, and other sinful pleasures, lead to the same end.

7. "A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son despiseth his mother." Parents labour hard for their children and wish them to do well. A father rejoices when his son behaves wisely: a boy who is disobedient to his mother, shows that he is a fool.

8. "The hope of the righteous shall be gladness; but the expectation of the wicked shall perish." A thief may appear to prosper for a time; but in the end he is generally found out and punished. So is it with all kinds of wickedness. The good are the only persons truly happy. The pleasure of sin is like that afforded by drinking

a cup of sweet poison. It soon ends in death.

Who are the righteous? All have sinned and deserve punishment. God in his great mercy sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to become incarnate in this world, and suffer in the room of sinners. Pardon is freely offered to all who trust in Him as their Saviour. Their hearts are also purified by God's Holy Spirit and made fit for heaven. Such persons are the righteous, and their hope shall be gladness.

Many people are put to useless expense by consulting astrologers; suitable marriages are frequently prevented because ignorant astrologers say that they will be unpropitious. But the great evil of astrology is, that it is a sin

against God. It is placing inanimate planets in the room of their great Creator.

The one true God is Lord of heaven above and earth beneath. Every thing is dependant upon His control. The planets are His servants. They have no authority; they are lifeless masses. Let us worship Him alone, who is their and our Creator, the most holy, just and merciful God.

It is very foolish to consult astrologers; but it is very wise to study the Bible, the holy Book which God has given to guide us through life, and shows us the way to heaven.

Happy the child, whose youngest years
Receive instruction well,
Who hates the sinner's path, and fears
The road that leads to hell.

When we devote our youth to God,
'Tis pleasing in his eyes:
A flower, when offered in the bud,
Is no vain sacrifice.

'Tis easier work, if we begin
To fear the Lord betimes;
While sinners, that grow old in sin,
Are hardened in their crimes.

'Twill save us from a thousand snares,
To mind religion young;
Grace will preserve our following years
And make our virtue strong.

To thee, Almighty God, to thee,
Our childhood we resign;
'Twill please us to look back and see
That our whole lives were thine.

Let the sweet work of prayer and praise
Employ my youngest breath;
Thus I'm prepared for longer days
Or fit for early death.

Printed at the C. K. S. Press, Madras,
No. 18, Church Street, Vepery.